

Rigornomics

Cultivating Thinkers through Speaking and Writing

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**True rigor is “creating an environment in which each student is expected to learn at high levels, each student is supported so he or she can learn at high levels, and each student demonstrates learning at high levels”
(Blackburn, 2008)**

Cultivating Speakers:

- **Ask open ended questions**
- **Discussion based classroom**
- **Opportunities to speak**
- **Dovico Rule #3**

Debate:

- **Model**
- **Immediate, constructive feedback**
- **Resources: cnn.com, procon.org, nytimes.com/roomfordebate**

Cultivating Writers:

- **Explore engaging topics, tap into their world**
- **Allow innovating techniques: write on desks, windows, mirrors**

Cultivating Thinkers:

- **Devote time to the preparation of your questioning**
- **Collaborate with peers to create higher-order questions**

***The Giving Tree* Question Set:**

- **Knowledge (information gathering):** Who are the main characters in the book?
- **Comprehension (confirming):** What was the main idea of the story?
- **Application (making use of knowledge):** Would you give something you really needed to someone you loved?
- **Analysis (taking apart):** What was the turning point in the boy's attitude toward the tree? Why was that so?
- **Synthesis (put together):** Why do you believe the boy continued to return to the tree after all those years?
- **Evaluation (judgments):** Judge the tree's willingness to continually give to the boy. Judge the boy's continual requests of the tree.